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CZECH REORGANIZATION TO ENCOURAGE
 NEW PRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT METHODS

Jaromir Dolansky

At a meeting on 7 September, the Czechoslovak government decided upon two decrees of great significance for the entire economy.

First, instead of the former Ministry of Heavy Industry, five ministries are to be established: Fuel and Power, Metallurgical Industry and Ore Mines, Chemical Industry, Heavy Machine Building, and General Machine Building. In addition, the decree provides for a Ministry of Forests and Wood Industry whose functions will include the preservation of forests, wood-cutting, and the administration of the wood, cellulose, and paper industries.

The former Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare will be included in the Ministry of Manpower. Simultaneously, all general directorates are to be discontinued, with the exception of those in the Ministries of Transportation and Posts, which are left intact for the time being. No additional commissions will be formed in Slovakia in the field of heavy industry, since heavy industrial enterprises will be directly subordinate to the respective Prague ministry, and for this reason the former Slovak Commission for Industry changes into the Commissions for Light Industry. In addition, a commission for Forests and the Wood Industry will be organized. All regional directorates in Slovakia will be abolished. Small regional administrative bodies will be formed within the sphere of heavy industry ministries whose function it will be to coordinate specific joint matters of Slovak heavy industry enterprises.

Under the second government decree, a Ministry of State Control will be formed, and the former Supreme Auditing Office and, in Slovakia, the Supreme Control Office, will be abolished. The Ministry of State Control will direct production through its Main Administration.

The above reorganization will result in a reduction of force of approximately 39 percent.

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Factory workers know best how awkward the economic system is, how clumsily the system conforms to party and government directives, how the entire economy is burdened with bureaucracy and paper work, how responsible organs are afraid to make decisions, and how one agency blames the other for not carrying out the tasks. The old organization of the economy and the management of production did not satisfy new functions and tasks. There were still remnants of the old capitalist system left in the economy.

The reorganization will put the entire economy on a new basis. The government agencies will be brought into closer contact with the various enterprises, they will be more effective and elastic, and the principle of personal responsibility will be put into effect logically throughout industry.

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